

# **Economic Fisheries Survey Northeast Coast 1998**



The person speaking with you today  
is part of the national

## **Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey,**

organized with the help of your  
**State's Marine Resources Agency.**

This is your opportunity to have input  
into decisions affecting your marine  
recreational fisheries.

Please!!  
**ANSWER ALL THE  
QUESTIONS  
and  
HAVE FUN FISHING**

## **I**ntroduction

The 1998 Northeast coast Economic Survey is part of the nationwide Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS). The economic portion consists of only a few questions asked at the fishing site and, if you're willing, a follow-up telephone call at your home to gather more complete economic information about your fishing trip.

## **T**he Need to Participate

This is your opportunity to have input on decisions that could affect your future recreational fishing activities. In the Northeast United States, the need for information on fish stocks has intensified due to an increased demand for seafood, a general decline in the quality of the marine environment, and technological advances in harvesting gear. To ensure that recreational fishing resources are sustained for today and for future generations, we need information on your catch, fishing effort, and economic expenditures. With this information, fisheries managers can make intelligent decisions regarding recreational fishing. Knowing this

information will help us to determine what factors affect where, when, and how you fish. And what fish you target. We can then estimate how different changes and management decisions will affect the value you derive from recreational fishing. Without your participation, it will be impossible to show the importance of our sportfish resources, both locally and nationally.

## **W**hy Must You Ask Me That?

All of these questions have been carefully thought out. It is important that you answer all these questions, even the ones not directly linked to your fishing trip. Only by answering all these questions will we gain the needed insights into patterns of recreational fishing. Information on the length and primary purpose of your fishing trip will show the importance of your fishing compared to your trip costs. Travel expenditures and fishing equipment purchases will provide information to help determine the economic input to the economy by marine sportfishing. Because your time is valuable, you'll be asked about the time and any income you may have given up to take your fishing trip. This cost is important to understand the value of your fishing trip.

## What If I've Been Interviewed Before?

We randomly select fishermen at fishing sites for an interview, since we cannot possibly interview every angler on every trip. The more often you fish during the year, the more likely you are to be randomly selected. We need your interview EACH TIME to properly represent your fishing activity in our survey. Even though your answers to some questions may be the same each time, your answers are very important to us. We ask that you PLEASE be patient with our sampler and provide the needed information.

Your responses can make a difference! This is your opportunity to ensure that your recreational fishing experiences and opinions are reflected in the survey.

### The 1994 Economic Survey

A comprehensive marine recreational fishing economic survey was designed and conducted in 1994 along the Northeast coast. Data from this survey provided demographic and economic information on marine recreational anglers in each state within the region.

A total of 22,594 economic intercepts and 8,226 telephone follow-up interviews were fully completed. The final report, entitled, "Summary Report of Methods and Descriptive Statistics for the 1994 Northeast Region Marine Recreational Economic Valuation Survey" is available on the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's homepage at <http://www.wh.who.edu/>. Some general findings were as follows:

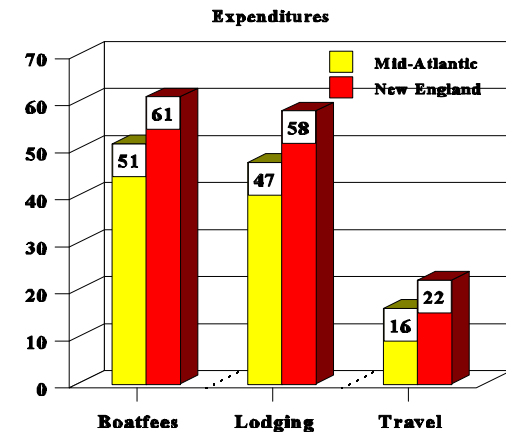
#### Household Income

In comparison to the general population, anglers' annual household incomes were relatively higher in New England (NE) and the Mid-Atlantic (MA). The largest percentage of angler household incomes fell between \$30,001 and \$45,000 for both subregions (NE=27%, MA=26%).

#### Fishing Trip Expenditures

Anglers were asked to tally personal trip costs for boat fees, lodging, and travel expenses. Boat fees averaged \$61.00 in NE and \$51.00 in the MA for those that fished from a boat. The average lodging expense across all overnight anglers in New England was \$58.00 and \$47.00 in the MA. Round-trip travel expenses included money spent on gas, travel fares, tolls, ferry

and parking fees and averaged \$22.00 in NE and \$16.00 in the MA.



#### Boat Ownership

Over 50% of the anglers in both subregions said that someone in their household owned a boat used for recreational saltwater fishing (NE=51%, MA=53%).

#### Age

Results show participation in marine recreational fishing increases with age, peaks between the ages of 36 to 45, and then declines.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP  
and  
HAVE FUN FISHING**